

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 05562 141709Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 /060 W
-----024137 141712Z /46

O R 141645Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1637

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCSO J2 QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

UNCLAS LA PAZ 5562

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BL

SUBJ: BOLIVIAN ELECTION RETURNS

REF: LA PAZ 5516

1. NATIONAL ELECTORAL COURT (NEC) HAS ANNOUNCED THAT FOR LACK OF NEW DATA FROM THE DEPARTMENTAL ELECTORAL COURTS IT IS NOW IN A 24-HOUR RECESS AND THAT VOTE TOTALS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED (REFTEL) ARE THE LATEST AVAILABLE FIGURES. NEC FURTHER ANNOUNCED THAT, CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS, VOTE TOTALS HERETOFORE RELEASED HAVE BEEN UNOFFICIAL AND THAT OFFICIAL RESULTS WILL NOT BE RELEASED UNTIL NEC BEGINS ITS REVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL RESULTS ON JULY 21.

2. CONSEQUENTLY, THE ONLY NEW ELECTION FIGURES ARE THOSE RELEASED BY THE DEPARTMENTAL ELECTORAL COURT OF LA PAZ WHICH GIVES SILES (UDP) 134,647 (45 PERCENT), PEREDA (UNP) 115,749 (38 PERCENT), PAZ(MNR/H-PRA) 21,157 (7 PERCENT), AND BERNAL (PDC) 8,209 (3 PERCENT) OF THE DEPARTMENTAL VOTE. APPROXIMATELY 44 PERCENT OF THE LA PAZ DEPARTMENT VOTE HAS BEEN COUNTED.

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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 05562 141709Z

3. ADDING THE NEW LA PAZ FIGURES TO THE UNCHANGED FIGURES FOR THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS (REFTEL) GIVES PEREDA 763,204 (50.13 PERCENT), SILES 320,223 (21.80 PERCENT), PAZ 164,652 (11.21 PERCENT) AND BERNAL 155,165 (10.56 PERCENT). PEREDA'S PERCENTAGE OF THE VOTE HAS DECLINED SINCE JULY 13 FROM 51.56 PERCENT TO 50.13

PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTE CAST.

4. MOST DEPARTMENTS, EXCEPT FOR LA PAZ AND POTOSI, HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED THEIR VOTE COUNTS AND THE NUMBER OF VOTES STILL TO BE COUNTED ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO AFFECT THE UNOFFICIAL RESULTS AS FAR AS WHICH PARTIES HAVE WON THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY REPRESENTATIONS. THUS, ACCORDING TO UNOFFICIAL RESULTS SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION BY THE NEC, PEREDA HAS WON THE DEPARTMENTS OF COCHABAMBA, SANTA CRUZ, PANDO, BENI, AND TARIJA AND COME IN SECOND IN ORURO AND CHUQUISACA. THIS GIVES HIM 57 CONGRESSIONAL SEATS. SILES HAS WON IN CHUQUISACA WITH 11 SEATS. PAZ HAS COME IN SECOND IN PANDO, BENI, SANTA CRUZ AND TARIJA WITH 12 SEATS. BERNAL HAS WON IN ORURO AND COME IN SECOND IN COCHABAMBA WHICH GIVES HIM 13 SEATS.

5. IN LA PAZ AND POTOSI SUFFICIENT VOTES REMAIN TO BE COUNTED TO STILL AFFECT THE FINAL RESULT. IN LA PAZ, SILES LEADS (PARA 2) AND IN POTOSI PEREDA MAINTAINS A 77,769 TO 50,794 VOTE LEAD OVER SILES WITH APPROXIMATELY 30,000 CAMPESINO VOTES REMAINING TO BE COUNTED.

6. IF PEREDA FAILS TO WIN 50 PERCENT PLUS ONE OF THE VOTES, AND THUS WIN THE ELECTION OUTRIGHT, BUT WINS IN EITHER POTOSI OR LA PAZ (ASSUMING THE OFFICIAL RESULTS CONFIRM HIS WINS IN THE FIVE DEPARTMENTS MENTIONED ABOVE), HE WOULD HAVE THE MAJORITY OF THE SEATS IN THE CONGRESS THAT HE NEEDS FOR ELECTION AS
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PAGE 03 LA PAZ 05562 141709Z

PRESIDENT BY THE CONGRESS.
BOEKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAPAZ05562
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780289-0408
Format: TEL
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780760/aaaabydx.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4d0d9e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LA PAZ 5516
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2008590
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOLIVIAN ELECTION RETURNS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4d0d9e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014